

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS SUMMARY, MONDAY EVENING, 3/28

NO. 5

NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES TIM"S

OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM MOSCOW

HEADLINE: VANCE SAYS HE REJECTED TALKS WITH RUSS DISSIDENTS
(STORY BEGINS FRONT-PAGE, CONTINUES INSIDE WITH PHOTO OF
SECRETARY DURING SUNDAY NEWS CONFERENCE AT EMBASSY.)

LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE SAID SUNDAY HE HAD TURNED DOWN AN
INVITATION BY SOVIET DISSIDENTS TO MEET WITH THEM DURING
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HIS VISIT HERE.

MAJOR POINTS:

--VANCE (AT EMBASSY NEWS CONFERENCE SUNDAY) ALSO MADE CLEAR
HE WOULD NOT RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AT MEETINGS WITH
SOVIETS. "I THINK IT MAY COME UP," HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.
"IF IT DOES COME UP, OF COURSE, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO
DISCUSS IT. I DO NOT PLAN IN MY OPENING STATEMENT

TO TOUCH ON IT."

--VANCE SAID HE INTENDS PRESENT RUSSIANS WITH NEW U.S. PROPOSAL ON STRATEGIC ARMS AND TO LAY OUT DETAILS OF 'SUBSTANTIAL' REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY BOTH SIDES THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HOPES TO ACHIEVE.

--VANCE'S STATEMENT HE HAD TURNED DOWN DISSIDENTS' INVITATION CAME AS SURPRISE TO MOSCOW-BASED CORRESPONDENTS, SINCE LEADING DISSIDENTS SUCH AS SAKHAROV HAD SAID EARLIER THEY WOULD NOT APPROACH VANCE FOR FEAR OF PRESSING CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOO FAR. EMBASSY OFFICIALS REFUSED TO DISCUSS WHEN REQUEST TO SEE VANCE HAD BEEN MADE, OR BY WHOM, AND REPORTERS COULD FIND NO ONE AMONG DISSIDENT CONTACTS WHO WOULD ADMIT TO ANY REQUEST. LATER SUNDAY EVENING, OFFICIALS WITH VANCE PARTY EXPLAINED THAT LETTER SIGNED BY SEVERAL PROMINENT JEWISH ACTIVISTS WAS RECEIVED THREE WEEKS AGO, ASKING FOR MEETING NOT NECESSARILY WITH VANCE BUT WITH ANY MEMBER OF HIS PARTY. THIS WAS MESSAGE VANCE HAD REFERRED TO, OFFICIALS SAID. BUT WELL-PLACED SOURCES AMONG DISSIDENTS INSISTED NO ONE ASSOCIATED WITH SAKHAROV OR WITH GROUPS MONITORING HELSINKI COMPLIANCE HAD MADE ANY APPROACH TO SECRETARY. SOME JEWISH SOURCES DISSOCIATED THEMSELVES FROM REQUEST, INDICATING WORRY THAT VANCE'S DISCLOSURE SUNDAY MIGHT PROVOKE INCREASED SOVIET SEVERITY. DURING SESSION WITH REPORTERS, VANCE "SEEMED UNCOMFORTABLE"

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ON QUESTION OF DISSIDENTS.

--IT IS BELIEVED VANCE WILL TELL SOVIETS THAT U.S. HAS NO WISH TO ENCOURAGE DISSIDENT MOVEMENT IN SOVIET UNION.

--ASKED TO COMMENT ON CHARGE THAT FORMER MOSCOW EMBASSY OFFICER LEVITSKY WAS A SPY, VANCE REPLIED "AS FAR AS THAT IS CONCERNED, THAT IS CERTAINLY NOT TRUE".

WIRES

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KEN FREED FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SOVIET LEADERS WARNED SECSTATE VANCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THEIR NUCLEAR ARMS TALKS TODAY THAT CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR RUSSIAN DISSIDENTS COULD JEOPARDIZE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. BOTH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO DECLARED THAT THE U.S. MUST ADHERE TO THE "PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS" OF THE SOVIET UNION. IF U.S. POLICY

DOESN'T "SQUARE" WITH THESE PRINCIPLES, BREZHNEV TOLD VANCE AT THEIR FIRST MEETING, "CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IS IMPOSSIBLE".

MAJOR POINTS:

--BREZHNEV'S COMMENTS AT MEETING AND GROMYKO'S LATER TOAST AT LUNCH WERE CARRIED BY TASS AND CONFIRMED BY U.S. OFFICIALS.

--AT NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER SECOND SESSION OF TALKS MONDAY AFTERNOON, VANCE INDICATED HE HAD FORESEEN ATTACKS ON U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND THEY DID NOT TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE.

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--AT FIRST, SECRETARY TRIED TO AVOID SAYING HOW HE RESPONDED. PRESSED, HE FINALLY SAID HE HAD "MADE REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT OUR HUMAN RELATIONS POSITION SPRINGS OUT OF FUNDAMENTAL VALUES WHICH WE HOLD". EARLIER FREED STORY SAID THAT "VANCE'S SPOKESMAN, HODDING CARTER, SAID THE SECRETARY DID NOT RESPOND TO BREZHNEV'S REMARKS. HE SAID VANCE READ A FORMAL PAPER REVIEWING GENERAL BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND CALLING FOR A FULL RANGE OF DISCUSSIONS DURING THE NEXT THREE DAYS".)

--VANCE MADE IT CLEAR HE NOW WANTS TO SET THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE ASIDE AND CONCENTRATE ON ARMS TALKS. "I THINK THE AIR IS CLEAR" OF THE SUBJECT, HE SAID.

--IN HIS STATEMENTS TO SOVIETS AT MEETING, VANCE STRESSED AGAIN THAT HIS MAJOR TASK HERE IS TO CONCLUDE A SALT TWO AGREEMENT.

--VANCE SA HE PRESENTED TWO U.S. PROPOSALS FOR ARMS CUTS. HE SAID SOVIETS PRESENTED ESSENTIALLY SAME PROPOSAL AS A YEAR AGO. HE SAID HE EXPECTED A REPLY TO HIS PROPOSAL (SIC) BEFORE TALKS CONCLUDE WEDNESDAY.

--VANCE SAID GROMYKO AND HE DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH QUESTIONS RAISED BY A FUNDAMENTAL SHIFT BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN U.S. APPROACH TO STRATEGIC ARMS. HE DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAIL.

--VANCE SAID HE WAS NOT SURPRISED BY SOVIET ATTACKS ON CARTER HUMAN RIGHTS STAND. HE SAID HE TOLD BREZHNEV THAT AMERICAN PRINCIPLES ON HUMAN RIGHTS SPRING FROM DEEPLY-HELD VALUES AND THAT U.S. AND SOVIET SOCIETIES ARE AS DIFFERENT AS THEIR VALUES. HE SAID HE TOLD SOVIET LEADERS THAT U.S. CONCERNS ARE UNIVERSAL IN NATURE AND THAT "WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE THINK NECESSARY."

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NICHOLAS DANILOFF FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SECSTATE VANCE OUTLINED PROPOSALS FOR A NEW U.S.-SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS ACCORD TODAY AFTER BREZHNEV WARNED THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN COULD PREJUDICE BETTER RELATIONS.

MAJOR POINTS:

--BREZHNEV OPENED TALKS BY CHARGING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD TAKEN ACTIONS WHICH VIOLATED PREVIOUSLY AGREED-ON U.S.-SOVIET PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MUTUAL BENEFIT, AND COULD MAKE IMPOSSIBLE "THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES".

--TO REPORTERS, VANCE SAID BREZHNEV'S WARNING DID NOT TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE AND PROBABLY CLEARED THE AIR FOR BUSINESS-LIKE TALKS ON SALT, MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER ISSUES.

--"I MADE REFERENCE", VANCE TOLD REPORTERS IN DESCRIBING HIS RESPONSE, "TO FACT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION SPRINGS OUT OF FUNDAMENTAL VALUES WE HOLD, THAT WE ARE DIFFERENT SOCIETIES, HAVE DIFFERENT VALUES. WE DO NOT INTEND TO SINGLE OUT THE SOVIET UNION IN WHAT WE SAY ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, THAT OUR CONCERNS ARE UNIVERSAL IN NATURE, AND THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE IS APPROPRIATE ON THE OVERALL QUEST-ON OF HUMAN RIGHTS."

REUTERS

ROY GUTMAN FROM MOSCOW

LEAD: SOVIET LEADERS TODAY ATTACKED PRES CARTER'S

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HUMAN RIGHTS STAND AT THE OUTSET OF TALKS WITH SECSTATE VANCE ON NEW SALT AGREEMENT. KREMLIN ATTACK WAS DELIVERED BY BREZHNEV DURING TALKS AND BY GROMYKO IN LUNCHEON TOAST.

MAJOR POINTS:

--BREZHNEV SAID CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WAS "IMPOSSIBLE" WITHOUT OBSERVANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. GROMYKO

SAID ANY ATTEMPT TO IGNORE OR VIOLATE THAT PRINCIPLE
"CANNOT BUT HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS.
IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS MISTAKE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY".

--VANCE LATER TOLD PRESS HE FEELS "THE AIR IS CLEARED"
AND SUBJECT WOULD NOT ARISE AGAIN. ASKED IF SOVIET
LEADERS SAID PROGRESS IN SALT WAS DEPENDENT ON U.S.
ACTIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS AREA, VANCE REPLIED: "NO, THEY
DID NOT".
NETWORK TELEVISION

NBC NEWS

RICHARD VALERIANI FROM MOSCOW

LEAD-IN BY BRINKLEY: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE
OPENED HIS MEETINGS WITH THE RUSSIAN LEADERS TODAY AND
HEARD THEM SAY, FIRST THING, THAT ALL THE AMERICAN TALK
ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS COULD WRECK RUSSIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

VALERIANI: THE NUMBER ONE SOVIET LEADER, LEONID BREZHNEV,
WAS ON HAND TO WELCOME SECRETARY VANCE AT THE OPENING
SESSION IN THE KREMLIN. THE ATMOSPHERE WAS DESCRIBED AS
BUSINESSLIKE. AFTER SOME AMIABLE CHITCHAT ABOUT SMOKING--
BREZHNEV IS CUTTING DOWN, VANCE HAS ALREADY QUIT--THE
SOVIET LEADER IMPLIED THE UNITED STATES WAS INTERFERING IN
INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS BY CRITICIZING HUMAN RIGHTS
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VIOLATIONS HERE. VANCE ASSURED HIM THE SOVIET UNION IS
NOT BEING SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM, BUT HE EMPHASIZED
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IT
THINKS IS APPROPRIATE IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR
THE FIRST TIME, THE AMERICAN DELEGATION INCLUDED ITS OWN
INTERPRETER. FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAD
ALWAYS RELIED ON THE RUSSIANS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF IS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE DELEGATION
FOR THE FIRST TIME, AS VANCE WANTS TO CHANGE THE KISSINGER
STYLE OF DOMINATING THE NEGOTIATIONS IN PRIVATE SESSIONS.
AFTER A LUNCHEON MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO,
VANCE PRESENTED TWO AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON ARMS CONTROL.
GROMYKO RESTATED THE PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITION. THE MAIN
DIFFERENCE IS THAT THE RUSSIANS WANT LIMITS ON THE
AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE WITH ONLY MODEST CUTS IN CURRENT
NUCLEAR ARSENALS, WHILE THE U.S. IS PROPOSING LIMITS ON
THE CRUISE ONLY IF THERE ARE DEEP CUTS ON BOTH SIDES.
VANCE SAID AFTERWARD HE FELT THE AIR HAD BEEN CLEARED ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, AND HE DID NOT EXPECT IT TO COME
UP AGAIN. HE ALSO SAID THAT SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE
ON THE ARMS CONTROL TALKS BUT, TO USE HIS WORDS, HE
DIDN'T WANT TO BLOW IT UP INTO ANY GREAT THING.

CBS NEWS

BERNARD KALB FROM MOSCOW

LEAD-IN BY CRONKITE: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE MET IN MOSCOW TODAY WITH SOVIET PARTY LEADER BREZHNEV TO DISCUSS ARMS LIMITATIONS, AND THE FIRST DAY OF KREMLIN TALKS HELD NO SURPRISES, AS BERNARD KALB REPORTS.

KALB: VANCE HAD EXPECTED A HEATED EXCHANGE ON HUMAN RIGHTS; THE RUSSIANS DID NOT DISAPPOINT HIM, BREZHNEV WARNING THAT INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL SOVIET AFFAIRS WOULD MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP IMPOSSIBLE. VANCE
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COUNTERED THAT THE U.S. APPROACH ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS NOT ANTI-RUSSIAN BUT UNIVERSAL, AND THAT THE U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO SPEAK OUT. HE LATER TOLD REPORTERS HE THOUGHT THE AIR WAS NOW CLEARED ON THIS MATTER. ON THE CENTRAL ISSUE OF CONTROLLED NUCLEAR WEAPONS, U.S. AND SOVIET DIFFERENCES PROMPTLY SURFACED. THE U.S. FAVORS A DEEP CUT-BACK IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS BUT WOULD ACCEPT A CEILING SET AT THE FORD-BREZHNEV SUMMIT AT VLADIVOSTOK IN 1974. THE RUSSIANS FAVOR RATIFYING THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT, BUT WANT THE AMERICAN CRUISE MISSILE COUNTED IN THE TOTALS. THE U.S. DOES NOT. THE SOVIET POSITION WAS LATER REINFORCED BY FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO AT A LUNCHEON RECEPTION FOR VANCE, GROMYKO SAYING IT IS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE THAT WE DO NOT REJECT WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED AT VLADIVOSTOK. VANCE CHARACTERIZED TODAY'S TALKS AS BUSINESSLIKE. THE RUSSIANS SAID NOTHING ABOUT ATMOSPHERICS. BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST DAY OF OPENING STATEMENTS, WITH HARD BARGAINING AHEAD. WHETHER THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL SUCCEED OR FAIL, NO ONE CAN SAY AT THIS TIME. BUT WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THE OUTCOME WILL HELP SET THE TONE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS DURING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

ABC NEWS

BARRIE DUNSMORE FROM MOSCOW

LEAD-IN BY REASONER: SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE TODAY BEGAN TALKS WITH SOVIET LEADERS IN MOSCOW ON THE SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR ARMS. THE FIRST SOVIET-AMERICAN NUCLEAR ARMS PACT, SALT ONE, EXPIRES THIS OCTOBER. THESE TALKS ARE DESIGNED TO FORMULATE SALT TWO, A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY VANCE IS PRESENTING THE NEW AMERICAN POSITION, FIRST ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. IT CALLS FOR A SHARP REDUCTION IN THE SIZE OF EACH SUPERPOWER'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL. BARRIE DUNSMORE REPORTS THAT SOVIET

REACTION TO THE IDEA WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, AND EVEN BEFORE
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NUCLEAR ARMS WERE DISCUSSED, THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
CAME UP.

DUNSMORE: SECRETARY VANCE HAD BRACED HIMSELF FOR A
BLAST FROM BREZHNEV OVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN, AND ONCE THE SMILES FOR PICTURES WERE OVER, IT
CAME. BREZHNEV SAID THAT IF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTER-
FERENCE WAS NOT ADHERED TO, NORMAL RELATIONS WOULD BE
IMPOSSIBLE. VANCE REPLIED THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE FUNDA-
MENTAL TO AMERICANS, BUT THE U.S. WAS NOT SINGLING OUT
RUSSIA. VANCE SAID LATER HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD TAKE CARE
OF THE SUBJECT FOR THESE TALKS. ON THE MORE CRUCIAL
ISSUE OF ARMS CONTROL, INITIAL SOVIET REACTION TO THE
U.S. PROPOSALS WAS NOT SYMPATHETIC. THE RUSSIANS OBJECTED
TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S TAKING WHAT THEY SEE AS
A FUNDAMENTALLY NEW APPROACH. THEY MAY EVENTUALLY BE
INTERESTED. BUT AT FIRST GLANCE, THEY ARE LIKELY TO BE
VERY SUSPICIOUS THAT THE MAJOR CUTS IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS
SYSTEMS THAT VANCE PROPOSED WOULD SOMEHOW PUT THE U.S.
IN A SUPERIOR STRATEGIC POSITION. AND SO, THE ONUS WILL
BE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE TO CONVINCE THE SOVIETS THAT THE
CARTER ADMINISTRATION, EITHER THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS OR
ARMS CONTROL, DOES NOT THREATEN THEIR SECURITY.
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